Export of wheat and onion

*338. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of wheat and onion has been exported during the year 2006, alongwith the per quintal rates of these commodities;

(b) whether Government are aware that there had been abnormal rise in the prices of these commodities on account of the said export; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban the export of these commodities and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The quantity and value of wheat and onion exported during year 2006, alongwith the per quintal rates of these commodities is as under:

Quantity in Tons (Value in Rs. Lakhs)

Commodity	Quantity	Value	Per Quintal Value
*Wheat (April-Oct. 2006)	42499	3137.57	738.26
**Onion (April. 2006 to 17th February 2007)	1022833	87000	850.57

Source.* DGFT, **Ministry of Agriculture

(b) Export of wheat is negligible. Annual exports of onion constitutes only 10-15% of the total production of onions. Prices are a result of host of factors including prevailing market conditions, supply and demand. Since the total availability of onions this year is comparable to the availability in the previous year, the rise in prices cannot be said to be a result of exports alone.

(c) Export of wheat has been banned with effect from 9/2/2007. The ban will remain in force upto 31/12/2007. The export of onion is already canalized. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of

India Ltd. (NAFED) monitors arrival, prices and export of onion on a daily basis and also fixes the Minimum Export Price for this.

Security cover to religious and cultural places

†*339. DR PRABHA THAKUR: Will the the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan to provide special security cover to some of the important religious and cultural places of the country;

(b) if so, the places identified under the said plan; and

(c) the criterion adopted for above identification; alongwith the details of the budget provision Government have kept for security of these places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, providing security to religious sites/places and enhanced security inside the complex wherever needed is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. The protection inside religious places/sites is generally provided by the trust/management authorities concerned. At times, the trust/management authorities may request the State Government/ Union Territory Administration to provide security inside the regligious places/sites, which may be provided on the basis of local threat perception.

There is no formal plan prepared for this purpose. However, special security cover has been provided to some religious and cultural places as per the threat perception for those places.

The Ministry of Home Affairs with a view towards facilitating adequate protection to those places, in respect of which specific threat inputs may be available, also issues advisory for strengthening the security to the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. Assistance is also provided by the Central Government for strengthening the security

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.